

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Anacostia Avenue & Douglas Street, N.E.

Near the Maryland boundary,

Along the Anacostia River

Northeast Washington, DC

Directions may be found [here](#) .



The [Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens](#) constitutes some 700 acres and is part of Anacostia Park. It is the only national park in the United States devoted to aquatic plants.

The Aquatic Gardens were begun as a hobby of a Civil War veteran, W.B. Shaw, and his daughter, Mrs. L. Helen Fowler, who began with 12 white lilies in 1882. It was operated for 56 years as a commercial water garden. They were successful in developing many new varieties of water lilies, two of which bear their names.

In 1938 the Gardens were purchased by the federal government and became part of the National Park system. The Gardens have many varieties of water lilies and lotus on display and is also a great place to see birds, frogs, turtles, butterflies, and dragonflies.

The Aquatic Gardens is open 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day of the year, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. There is no fee to visit the Park and Gardens.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Links

- [Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens NPS Website](#)

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